

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/786,085

Examiner

Houshang Safaipoor

Applicant(s)

OOMORI ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee.

Authorization to amend the claims was given in telephone interview with Manabu Kanesaka (Registration No. 31,467) on January 22, 2008.

2. In the Claims:

Claim 1. (currently Amended) A document feeder comprising:
a frame to be placed on a platen of an image reading device,
transporting means attached to the frame with a gap relative to the platen for transporting an original and having a transporting belt,
a sheet feeding stacker disposed adjacent to the transporting means for feeding the original to the transporting means,
a discharge stacker disposed adjacent to the transporting means for storing the original transported from the transporting means,
a flange portion of the platen at a side edge,
a lateral positioning member provided on the frame for abutting against a the flange portion of the platen ~~at a side edge thereof~~ to laterally restrict a position of the transporting

means, and a vertical positioning member provided on the frame for abutting against a surface of the platen to vertically restrict the position of the transporting means.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

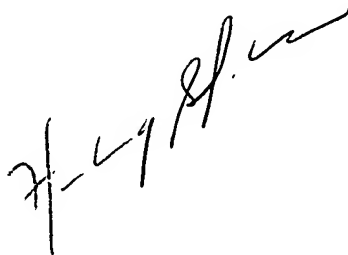
The document feeder according to claim 1,

a the platen for placing an original, and

photoelectric converting means disposed adjacent to the platen for electrically reading the original on the platen[.].

~~transporting means having a transporting belt and disposed adjacent to the platen for transporting the original and setting the original on the platen, a sheet feeding stacker disposed adjacent to the transporting belt for feeding the original to the transporting belt, a discharge stacker disposed adjacent to the transporting belt for storing the original transported from the transporting belt, a flange disposed around a periphery of the platen and having a step for abutting against the original to regulate the same, a frame for supporting the transporting belt, a lateral positioning member disposed on the frame for abutting against the flange to laterally restrict a position of the transporting belt, and a vertical positioning member disposed on the frame for abutting against a surface of the platen to vertically restrict the position of the transporting belt.~~

Houhang Safaipoor
Patent Examiner



Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
2. This is examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Regarding claims 1-20, the prior art, either singularly or in combination, does not teach or suggest a document feeder comprising:

“...a lateral positioning member provided on the frame for abutting against a flange portion of the platen at a side edge thereof to laterally restrict a position of the transporting means, and a vertical positioning member provided on the frame for abutting against a surface of the platen to vertically restrict the position of the transporting means.”

The features identified, in combination with other claim limitations, are neither suggested nor discussed by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

3. ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipoor whose telephone number is

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(571)272-7412. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 6:30am to 3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore whose telephone number is (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Houshang Safaipoor
Patent Examiner
January 22, 2008

